

AN  
ANSVVER  
TO  
A late Insolent  
LIBEL,  
ENTITLED,

A Discovery of the Conduct of Receivers and Thief-Takers, in and about the City of *London*; presumptuously Dedicated to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council. Written by C--s H--n.

Wherein is prov'd in many particular Instances, who is Originally the GRAND *Thief-Taker*; that a certain Author is Guilty of more flagrant Crimes, than any *Thief-Taker* mention'd in his Nonsensical Treatise; and that he has highly Reflected on the Magistracy of the City, in the said Scandalous Pamphlet.

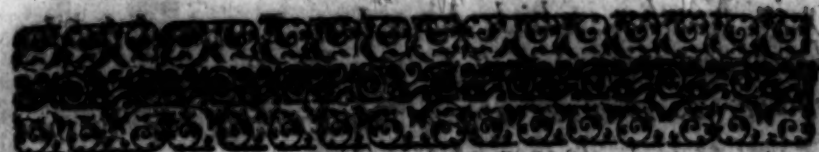
Set forth in several Entertaining Stories; Comical Intrigues, merry Adventures, particularly of the M-- and his Man the *Buckle-maker*. With a Diverting Scene of a *Sodomitish* Academy.

---

L O N D O N:

Printed for THO: WARNER, at the *Black-Boy* in  
*Paternoster-Row* 1718. (Price Six-Pence.)





# THE PREFACE.

**W**HEN a Reformation is to be begun by the Devil, it is high time for Persons of all Denominations to be upon their Guard; in all probability the most innocent may, by Perjury and other illegal Practices, be made appear the most culpable; and little Villians only partake of the Loss of Authority, whilst Grand Criminals slip their Necks out of the Halter.

And little Villains must submit to Fate,  
That Great Ones may enjoy the World in State.

Whether this be not the Design of the worthy Mr. H--h--n, I take it will be very apparent when this small Treatise is perus'd; tho' he may like the Devil in Don Quevedo, declare as he hopes to be Sav'd, the contrary.

The Person call'd by this Nonsensical Scribler, the Thief-Taker, (who indeed may be truly Esteem'd such, for his Apprehending and bringing to Justice many notorious Malefactors, above Six-



## The P R E F A C E.

ty in Number, which have been Executed, besides Transportation, will so far Vindicate his Character, as to make appear undeniably his Reputation is the clearer of the Two; to prove that he is inferior in the Qualifications for Thief-Taking to his Grand Master in Iniquity the City M--l and will fully shew, by former Practice, that the great st Progress this pretended Reformer, is likely to make in the work of Reformation, is by Plundering the Purses, Abusing the Persons, and the highest Impositions, as well upon the Guilty as the Innocent.

It is very odd to find this Gigantic Scholar quarrel with, and calumniate a Person less Criminal than himself, and one who by Misfortunes in the World, was subject to the Discipline of the Compter for above the space of Four Years, during which time it was impossible but he must be in some measure, let into the Secrets of the Criminals there under Confinement, and particularly by Mr. H--n's Managements.

And as he has since that been a Servant to this monstrous Reformer for the Entertainment of the Publick, he has thought fit to Publish the Adventures of several Nights Rambles with his Master the City M--l; and tho' he is not so Accomplish'd in the profession of Thief-Taking as to be Master of the Cant and obscure Language us'd by those Sorts of Persons, yet he hopes his small Treatise will be acceptable to all curious and impartial Readers.





AN  
ANSWER  
TO A

**Late insolent LIBEL, Entituled,**  
*A Discovery of the Conduct of*  
*Thieves and Thief-Takers, &c.*



It is a common Observation, that when Two of a Profession are at Variance, the World is let into many important Discoveries; and whether it be amongst Thief-Takers; or Lawyers, Merchants or Ministers of State, Clergy or Laity; an Expectation naturally Arises of some *Billingsgate* Treatment.

This is so universally known, that it needs no Argument to Enforce it; and for the Satisfaction

faction of the World in this particular, I shall like a true Cock of the Game, Answer Mr. H—ch—n with his own Weapons, but not with equal Scurrility: And tho' I am diminutive in Stature to my powerful Adversary, I doubt not by the Activity of my Heels to reach his Comb.

But before I enter into my particular Examination of the M-----l's Character, or proceed to Trace his Iniquities; I shall Scrutinize his stupid Performance; and Demonstrate to the World the heap of Absurdities, Inconsistencies, and Reflections therein contain'd; and then advance to our Nightly Adventures.

To begin in *Page 1.* says my old Master in Iniquity; one Thief-Taker brought to Justice, is more for the Advantage of the City, than a Hundred Thieves. Not to justify the Business of Thief-Taking, I entirely acquiesce with him in this, if the oldest Offenders are to be first Prosecuted (as in Justice they ought) and then I'll leave the World to Judge when they have done me the favour to Read this small Treatise, who will first deserve an exemplary Punishment, the Master or the Man?

In the same *Page* lower, he says that the best pretence of a Thief-Taker to blind Justice, is to pretend that he is doing something for the good of the Publick. I take it to be Evident from the vicious Principles of the City M-----l, and his flagitious Life and Conversation; that his non-sensical

senfical Treatise I am Answering, concerning the Conduct of Thief-Takers, is Compos'd with a Design to cast a Mist before the Eyes of the Magistrates of the City, whereby they may have an Opinion of his Conduct, and his Power, he by that means Enlarg'd to the only use of *Monopolizing Villany*.

The Information mention'd in Page 6. in respect to the setting up an Evidence, is entirely Groundless, the Person Accus'd being perfectly Ignorant of it; and there are enough to prove that the Evidence, voluntarily appear'd before my L. Mayor: And as for not returning of Goods for want of a Reward, sufficient to the Value, I shall in the Sequel of this Treatise fully shew what flagrant Crimes the City M---I has been Guilty of, of this Nature: And only hint in this Place, the Case of the *Bisket-Baker* near *Wapping*: But I shall not like him give General and uncertain Accounts, (grounded upon Conjecture only) which amount to no Charge; but give such convincing Particulars and Circumstances of Fact, as the World will be oblig'd to Credit, and will be out of Mr. H---n's Power, with any Truth to deny.

And here I cannot refrain mentioning the Prejudice and Ill-Nature, with which the Author is possess'd, in Attacking a Person who so little Deserves a barbarous Treatment from him, or any others; when 'tis consider'd, that upon all Occasions no Person has been more forward in



Apprehending and bringing to Justice the boldest of Criminals, even to the Hazard of Life (particularly in the Case of the barbarous Murder of Mrs. *Knapp*, the breaking of the Bishop of *Norwich's* House, &c.) And which is highly Obvious to the whole Magistracy of the City.

But to go on with my Examination; in the same *Page 6*. In short, says the Author, the Thief, the Goal, the Justice, and the King's Evidence, all of them seem to be influenc'd and manag'd by him (the Thief-Taker) and at this Rate none will be brought to the Gallows, but such as he thinks fit. This not only Reflects on the Magistracy of the City, but amounts to a downright Libel against them: To say that the Justice is Govern'd by a Thief-Taker, is such a Slur to the Reputation of a Magistrate, and such an Affront to Authority, that nothing can equal it: And if the City *M---l* had his Deserts, for this alone, he would be justly sent to the same Place of Confinement, which he has causelessly done Numbers of his Fellow-Citizens.

Lower, says this Author (speaking of the means by which the Thief-Taker arriv'd to his pitch of Preferment) you will find that he hath been a great Proficient in all Matters and Things that he hath engag'd in; when in a private Station, and follow'd the Trade of *Buckle-Making*, he knew how to Plate a Crown Piece, as well as any that follow'd that Employment. Now if he could prove this Assertion, or any thing like it,

it, it is very rational to suppose, that he would bring the Thief-Taker to condign Punishment, being his implacable Enemy; this would be truly doing Justice which he pretends to Countenance. But he is so far from it (knowing his Inability to make good the least Allegation of that kind) that he carefully avoids mentioning the *Buckle-Maker's* Name, apprehending he might be under the Lash of the Law himself, for Scandal and Obloquy: He has the same Precaution in many other Parts of his Infamous Treatise.

In Page 7. is the following Paragraph. There being one Thing more which he earnestly Desires, and Sollicits to be employ'd in finding out, and setting up Evidences against the false Coiners, and then you need not doubt, but in a little time you will have as many Coiners, as you have Thieves. It must be apparent to all, that this is a flagrant Piece of Nonsense and Absurdity. That Evidences against false Coiners should encrease their Number, is such a Contradiction, that it is not to be Paralell'd; when 'tis highly Conspicuous to the sensible Part of Mankind that Evidence and Information are the Foundation for Executing of Laws, and putting of Justice in Practice; and without them 'tis impossible that Robberies, Thefts, or other Villanies can be suppress'd. And 'tis owning more to the Odium cast upon Informers, that the greatest Criminals go with Impunity, than  
Justice

Justice is any ways interrupted in the setting up Evidence. But this Observation of this judicious Author is of a piece with the rest of his Performance ; he being as illy qualified to be a Writer, as he is to be a Reformer in the City of London.

In the same Page 7. is this Exclamation, O London! London! so much fam'd for thy good Order, by what Means is it now come to pass, that thou art become a Receptacle for a Den of Thieves and Robbers, and all sorts of villanous Persons and Practices, &c. The asking by what means these Irregularities are suffer'd, is a plain implied Arraignment of Justice, a Reflection on the Lord Mayor, and seems to indicate what the *M---* would do were he in equal Authority.

And in Page 8. the Methods to surpassthes disorderly Houses and Practices, are to give you a Dialogue of the Humours and Actions of a *Ken* frequented by these sorts of Persons, in their own Dialect throughly Flash, Represented in the Nature of a *Windmill*. This Advice is agreeable to the Man imposing it, who has a *Windmill* in his Pate, beyond the rest of his Brethren in Iniquity.

The City *M---* has shewn such an Excellence in the Flash or Cant Dialect, that every Body must allow him to be a Master, and that experience only must have compleated him. But to examine this informing Dialogue : First he is of



of Opinion, that the *Flash Gaming-House* is a principal Cause and Supporter of wicked Transactions, when no Body frequents those sorts of Houses more than himself, as will appear hereafter,

In the same *Page* is a notable Piece of inconsistency; *Bawdy-Houses* are accounted the principal Cause and Supporters of Wickedness, says this Author, only for the pernicious Practice of Reformers in taking up Whores and others from thence, and conveying them to the *Work-house*, where by ill Acquaintance and Conversation they learn to be Thieves. By this way of Arguing, the Houses of Correction instead of Deterring Iniquity, encrease Thefts and Robberies; and the Reformers of Manners are the Promoters of Wickedness.

In *Page 9.* there is a Paragraph very applicable to himself. A Person asking the Master of the *Ken*, whether he be not a Thief himself, and doth not wink at, and carry on the basest Designs! He answers, No Man is oblig'd to accuse himself; but I will take care Sir, so to regulate my Matters, as to take a Toll of all that come within the Verge of my Authority.

The Proclamation *Page 10.* shews Mr *H* a very great Proficient in the Business of *Thief-Taking*, otherwise he could not issue it with such Regularity, and insert so many particulars; and I am of his Opinion therein, that he dare not take up and bring to Justice any of his beloved

loved Subjects, the *Pick-pockets*, for fear of his own precious and felonious Neck. And however a certain Person in the World may resemble a Baboon, (not to mention his burlesquing Majesty) It is very Evident to all who know the City *M---*, that he wants nothing but a Cloven Foot to personate in all Respects his Father *Belzebub*.

In Describing the Humours of the Ken, Page 12. The heap of Boys at the Table, playing at Dice, Swearing, Cursing, and Grinning at each other like so many Hell-Cats; and the Man, in the Silver-Button'd Coat, and knotted Peruke, with a Sword by his Side; is an exact Scene of an Officer of the City and his Company of *Pick-pockets*, at an Ale-House between *Morefields* and *Islington*, where they us'd to Rendezvous daily; the Boys giving an Account of their Dayswork, and the Master dispensing further Instructions. The humorous Dialogue Demonstrates in general that the *M---* has a very great knowledge in the Intrigues of all manner of *Pick-pockets*, *House-breakers*, *Highway-Men*, &c. And a Person would Swear by his apt Description, that he had been an Actor in all. To come to Page 17. You will find an extraordinary Compliment to himself. The Question is ask'd, Do you not think, but that it is possible to find a Way out, to suppress the great Numbers of disorderly Houses and Persons? Answer, Sir, It is my fix'd Opinion, that if ever the same be done

done, your Friend the City M---l will be the Man that doth it, for that he is entirely free from their evil Practices, &c. How entirely free the City M---l is from ill Practices, will be very Demonstrable, before I conclude my Answer, to his Heap of *Billingsgate*; but however, in his own Opinion, he is the only Man capable of effecting a Reformation.

And in Page 20. says the conceited M---l, now methinks I see you in the most despairing Manner, looking upon each other, (*the Citizens*) and not knowing what Course to take, saying, What Reward can be great enough for him, that can find out the way to Reform and Suppress those Numbers of Dangerous and incorrigible Rogues, and Night-Walking Pick-Pockets, which continually pester the Streets; and that his Name ought to be written in Gold, that can bring the same to pass. This is Encouraging a Reward to his Dear-self, and bespeaking a Monument, which none of his Ancestors ever had, nor will he be honour'd with, unless it be under the Gallows; and he says that neither the Judges, Clergy, Justices of Peace, or People, can do this great Work, but the City M---l.

In Page 21. he insists upon a Reward for his former good Offices, and urges his future Service with Vehemence; he *Cams* here like a *Conventicle Teacher*, compares himself to *Elisba*, tho' he is a *Judas* in his Profession; and his



Simile of *Sampson's* Foxes in respect to the Reformers, is not so applicable as the Jaw-Bone of the Ass, wherewith *Sampson* slew so many Persons, is to the Magistracy of the City, their knocking down Vice and Immorality, with the City *M---l*.

In this Page, he Petitions to be *Thief-Taker* General of *Great Britain*, and having set forth his great Qualifications, will not be denied the Preferment: And to persuade the World that he bids fair for it, he has this Reflection on the Magistrates of the City. Says he, (Addressing himself to the Mayor and Aldermen) and now what if your Servant the aforesaid *M---l* shou'd have come nearer unto you; and ask'd you to do some great Thing: To wit, to Build more Work-Houses, and to Employ more Regulators and Thief-Takers, in order to Suppress the same, would you not have done it? This is such a Presumption, and Insinuation of an Ascendency over the Magistracy of the City, as is almost Unpardonable, that they should Establish Iniquity, to Destroy Vice, and meerly at his Request.

'Tis no wonder to find, that the *M---l* throughout his Treatise, expresses a great deal of uneasiness at the Informers; it being very conspicuous that those Persons very much lessen his Interest, particularly, in the Suppressing of Houses of Lewdness and Debauchery, the Keepers whereof have been generally Pensioners

ners to him; and to prove this last Assertion, I can produce Persons who will make it appear that several Houses of ill Fame, are supported by quarterly Payments to the City M---L. Besides this is not the only Profit to him, there being frequently Sums of Money Extorted from Libertines, for Contivance at their Lewdness; and sometimes from Persons perfectly Innocent, unacquainted with the Character of those Houses. Many particular Instances whereof can be given, and Proofs beyond Contradiction will be upon Occasion made out: And the M---Lof late has been so Audacious, as to Examine Taverns of the best Reputation, and to insist upon Yearly Compositions from them; tho' the only Payment he has met with, has been a Salute with a *Crab Tree Cudgel*, and a decent Toss in a Blanket.

In Page 22. That he has Writ another Book Dedicated to the King, and that if he understands any thing of the Matter he has been Treating about, the same will dash the Thief and Receiver one against another like two Pitchers. He does very well to make a doubt, whether he understands the Matter he is Writing of, since the World will not allow him to know any thing of it; and unless the other Performance is written in a more intelligible Manner, contains more demonstrable Facts, and is compos'd with more Candour and Impartiality; than this, his two Treatises will either be deservedly Burnt, or applied to a necessary Use in a dark Closet. He

He puts the Reformers of Manners, and Thief-Taker in the same Class ; never a Barrel, a better Herring ; And concludes his Scurrility with this Advice to the *Gentlemen for Reformation of Manners*. I exhort you, says he, to Purge your selves from Pride, Partiality, Vain Glory, and Conceit, that lieth hid. This unthinking Scribler, does not consider his own Pride, Vain Glory, and Conceit, expos'd to the World in his own Treatise : And as none but the worst of Illiterates could Compose such a bundle of Nonsense, so no Person but Mr. H----n could be Author of the *Discovery of the Conduct of Thief-Takers*.

Thus I have briefly Examined the City M---l's Composure of Authorship, (not to mention particularly his being nearer the Pillory, than ever a certain Person was to the Stocks) and shewn the gross Errors, Absurdities, Inconsistencies and Reflections therein : And tho' there are many other particulars worthy Notice, which might be Detected, I shall omit the same, and proceed to several Matters of Fact, manifested in Nocturnal Adventures, &c, To make appear that (instead of a scoundrel Author's being entirely free from all the evil Practices he has Treated of) he is Guilty of the same Crimes he pretends to fix upon others, and to make good the Remainder of my Charge in my Title Page.

After the M---l's Suspension in his Office, that he was forbid Attendance on the Lord Mayor,



Mayor. He on a time applied himself to the *Buckle Maker* near *Cripplegate*, Addressing himself to him in the following Manner. I am very sensible that you (calling him by his Name) are let into the Knowledge of the Intrigues of the *Compter*, particularly, with Relation to the Securing of *Pocket Books* : But your Experience says the *M---l*, is Inferior to mine ; I can put you in a far better Method than you are Acquainted with, and which may be Facilitated with Safety : For tho' I am Suspended, I still retain the Power of Acting as a Constable ; and notwithstanding, I can't be heard before my Lord Mayor as formerly, I have Interest amongst the *Al---n* upon any Complaint. But I must first tell you (the *Buckle Maker*) that you'll spoil the Trade of Thief-Taking, in Advancing greater Rewards than are necessary : I give but Half-a-Crown a Book ; and when the Thieves and Pick Pockets see you and I Confederate, they'll submit to our Terms, and likewise continue their Thefts for fear of coming to the Gallows by our means. Concluding you shall take a Turn with me as my Servant or Assistant, and we'll Commence our Rambles this Night.

The Night approaching, the *M---l* and the *Buckle Maker* began their Walk at *Temple-Bar*, calling at several *Brandy-Shops* and *Ale-Houses*, between that and *Fleet-Ditch* : Some of the Masters of these Houses, Complimented the *M---l* with *Punch*, others with *Brandy*, and some

some Presented him with their *Fine Ale*; offering their Service to their worthy Protection: The *M--l* made them little Answer, but gave 'em to understand, all the Service he expected from them, was to give him Information of Pocket-Books, or any Goods Stoll'n as a *Pay-back*, as he call'd it. For you (Addressing himself to some Females in one of the Shops) Women of the Town, make it a common Practice to Resign things of this Nature, to the Bullies and Rogues of your Retinue, who upon Occasion fill you with dreadful Apprehensions, under a Notion of their being Officers of the City. But this shall no longer be born with; I'll give you my Word, both they and you shall be Detected, unless you deliver all the Pocket Books you from Time to Time meet with to me. What do ye think I bought my Place for, but to make the most of it? And you are to understand this is my Man (pointing to the *Buckle Maker*) to assist me; and if you at any Time for the future, Refuse to yield up the Watches, Books, &c. as you take or come to your Hands, either to me or my Servant, you may be assur'd of being all sent to *Bridewell*, and not One of you for the future shall be permitted to walk the Streets: For notwithstanding, I am under a Suspension, (the chief Reason whereof is for not Surpressing the Practices of such Vermin as you are) I have still a Power of Punishing, and you shall dearly pay for the least Disobedience to what I have commanded.

Struting

Strutting along the Streets a little further, the *M—* on a sudden seiz'd two or three detestable Pick-Pockets, Reprimanding them for not paying their Respects to their mighty Chief; and withal asking them to what Parts of the Town they were Rambling, and whether they did not see him? To which they answer'd, that they saw him at a Distance, he being big and remarkable enough to be known by them and their Brethren; but he caught hold of them so hastily, that they had no time to Address him. We have been Stroling (continu'd the Pick-Pockets) over *Marefields*, and from thence to the *Blow-Boar* in pursuit of you; but not finding you as usual, we were under some Fears that you were Indispos'd. To which the *M—* replied, he should have given 'em a Meeting there as he had intended, but been Engag'd this whole Day with his new Man. You are to be very careful, said he, not to oblige any Person but my self, or my Servant with Pocket-Books: If you presume to do otherwise you shall Swing for it; and we are out in the City every Night to observe your Motions. These Instructions given, the Pick-Pockets left us, making their Master a very low *Conge*, and promising Obedience. This was the Progress (amongst many other preparatory Actions) of the first Night with the *Buckle-Maker*, whom he told, his Staff of Authority terrified the Ignorant to the Extent of his Wishes.

Another



Another Night walking towards the back part of *St. Paul's*, said the *M---l* to the *Buckle-Maker*, I'll now shew you a *Brandy-shop* which Entertains no other Company but Whores and Thieves; this is a House said he for our purpose; and I am inform'd that a Woman of the Town who frequents it, has lately Decently Robb'd a Gentleman of his Watch and Pocket-Book; the Advice I receiv'd from her Companion, with whom I have a good Understanding: We'll go into the House, and if we can possibly find this Woman, I'll assume a more stern Countenance than usual, (tho' at best I look like an Infernal) and by continu'd Threats extort a Confession, and by that means get Possession of the Watch and Pocket-Book; in order to which (to the *Buckle-Maker*) do you first silyly Accost her Companion, (Describing her to him) call to her, and inform her that your Master is in a Damn'd ill Humour, and swears if you don't instantly make a Discovery where the Pocket-Book and Watch may be found, at furthest by To-morrow, he will certainly send you to the Compter, and thence to the *Work-house*. These means being thus concerted by the *M---l*, to gain the valuable Goods, both Master and Man enter'd the *Brandy-shop* in pursuit of the Game, and according to Expectation, they found the Person wanted with several others; whereupon, the *M---l* shewing an enrag'd Countenance, looks becoming the Design, and the *Buckle-Maker*

*Maker* being oblig'd to follow his Example, the Company said that the Master and Man look'd as sour as two *Devils*. *Devils*, said the *M---l*, I'll make some of ye *Devils*, if you don't immediately discover the Watch and Pocket-Book; I am employ'd to Procure. We don't know your meaning Sir, answer'd some; who do you Discourse to? said others. We know nothing of it. The *M---l* replied in a more soft Tone, you are Ungrateful to the last Degree, to deny me this small Request, when I never was let into the Secret of any Thing to be taken from a Gentleman, but I Communicated the same to you; Describing the Person so exactly, that you could not possibly mistake the Man. And there is so little got at this Rate, that the *Devil* may Trade with you for me. This Speech being over, the *M---l* gave a Nod to his Man, who in Obedience to his Master's Motions, and his former Commands; call'd one of the Women to the Door, and telling the Story above Directed: The Female answer'd, unconscionable *Devil*! when he gets Five or Ten Guineas, not to bestow above 5 s. or 10 s. upon us unfortunate Wretches: But however, says she, rather than go to the *Compter*, I'll try what is to be done. The Woman returning to the *M---l*, ask'd him what he would give for the Delivery of the Watch (being Seven or Eight Pounds in Value) and the Pocket-Book, having in it several Notes, Goldsmith's Bills, &c. To which the *M---l* answer'd

D

answer'd, a Guinea; and told her it was much better to Comply, than to go to *Newgate*, which she must certainly expect on her Refusal: The Woman replied, that the Watch was in Pawn for 40 s. and if he did not advance that Sum, she should be oblig'd to Strip herself for the Redemption; tho' when her Furbelow-Scarf was laid aside, she had nothing underneath but Furniture for a Paper-Mill. After abundance of Words, he allow'd her 30 s. for the Watch and Pocket-Book, which she accepted; and the Watch was never return'd to the Owner.

Not long after this, a Gentleman in Liquor dropping into the *Blew-Boar* near *Morefields*, with a Woman of the Town, immediately lost his Watch. He applied himself to the *M---* desiring his Assistance; but the Man being well Acquainted with the Walks, between *Cripple-gate* and *Morefields*, had the good Fortune to find out the Woman. The Master immediately seiz'd her on Notice given, and by vehement Threatnings oblig'd her to a Confession. She declar'd that she had Stoll'n the Watch, and carried it to a Woman that kept a Brandy-Shop near, desiring her to Assist her in the Sale of it; accordingly this Woman went to a Watch-Maker in the Neighbourhood to Dispose of the same, who ask'd many Questions about it, particularly whom she had the Watch from; the Mistress of the Brandy-Shop readily answer'd, she had it from an honest Young Woman that frequented



frequented her House, whose Husband was gone to Sea, whereupon she had Pawn'd the Watch for its Value, and order'd the Sale. This Story seeming reasonable, the Watchmaker purchas'd the Watch, and gave the Money agreed for it, which was 50 s. Thus the Sale of the Watch being Discover'd; the M--- with his Staff and Assistants, immediately repair'd to the Watchmaker's House, and seiz'd the Watchmaker in the same Manner, as a Person would do the greatest of Criminals. He carried him to a publick House, telling him that if he did not forthwith send for the Watch, he should be committed to *Newgate*, and making known the Maker of the Watch, to induce him to a Delivery. The Watchmaker not being any ways accusom'd to unfair Dealings, directly Answer'd, that he had purchas'd the Watch, and that the Person he had Bought it of, would produce the Woman that Stole it, if it were Stoll'n; (the Woman being then present) to which the M--- Replied, that he had no business with the Persons that Stole the Watch, but with him in whose Possession it was found; and that if he did not instantly send for the Watch, and deliver it without insisting upon any Money, but on the contrary, returning him Thanks for his great Civility, which deserv'd Five or Ten Pieces, he would without any delay send him to *Newgate*. Upon which, the innocent Watchmaker being very much surpriz'd, sent for the

Watch, and surrend'rd it to him; and since that, he has been well satisfied that the Person who own'd the Watch, made a Present to the *M---l* of 3 Guineas for his Trouble; and the poor Watchmaker never had a Farthing for his 50 s. This Story and the following, sufficiently demonstrate the Honesty of the City *M---l*.

Sometime ago a Bisket-Baker near *Wapping*, having lost a Pocket-Book, wherein was amongst other Papers an *Exchequer* Bill for 100 l. applied himself to the *M---l's* Man the *Buckle-Maker* for Recovery thereof; the *Buckle-maker* advis'd him to Advertize it, and stop the Payment of the Bill, which he did accordingly, but having no Account of his Bill, he came to the *Buckle-maker* several times about it; and at length he told him, that there had been with him a tall Man with a long Peruke and Sword, calling himself the City *M---l*, and ask'd him if he had lost his Pocket Book, the Bisket-Maker, answer'd yes, desiring to know his Reasons for asking him such a Question, as whether he could give him any Intelligence of it, &c. The *M---l* replied, no, he could not give him any Intelligence of it as yet; but desir'd to be inform'd whether he had Employ'd any Person to search after it: To which the Bisket-maker answer'd, he had Employ'd one *Wild*: Upon which the *M---l* told him he was quite under a Mistake; he gave him to understand that he should have applied himself to Him, who was  
the

the only Person in England that could have serv'd him; being well assur'd it was entirely out of the Power of *Wild*, or any of those Fellows to know where it was; (which was very certain, he having it at that time in his Custody) and desir'd to know the Reward which would be given; the Gentleman answer'd, that he would give 10 *l*. To which the *M---I* replied that a greater Reward should be offer'd, for that Exchequer Bills and those things, were ready Money, and could be immediately Sold: And that if he had Employ'd him in the beginning, and offer'd 40 or 50 *l*. he would have serv'd him. The Bisket-Maker coming to *Wild* and acquainting him with this Story, *Wild* gave it as his Opinion, that the Pocket-Book was in the *M---I*'s Possession, and therefore it would be to no purpose to continue the Advertizing of it; he being well assur'd that the *M---I* wou'd not have taken the Pains to find out the Bisket-Baker, unless he knew how to get at it. Upon the whole, *Wild* advis'd the Bisket-Baker, rather to advance his bidding, considering what Hands in all probability the Note was in, and for that the *M---I* had often told his Servant how easily he could dispose of Bank-Notes, or Exchequer-Bills at Gaming Houses, which he very much frequented: Pursuant to this Advice, the Owner at last bid 40 *l*. for his Pocket-Book and Bills, and went to the *M---I* a second Time, who said to him, Zounds Sir, you are too late; which



which was all the Satisfaction he gave him.  
 Thus the poor Bisket-Baker was trick'd out of  
 his Exchequer Bill; but it happen'd a small  
 time after, that some of the young Fry of  
 Pick Pockets under the Tuition of the M---l,  
 fell out in sharing the Money given them for  
 this very Pocket Book; whereupon one of them  
 came to the Person first Employ'd by the Bisket-  
 Baker, and discover'd the whole Matter, (viz.)  
 That he had sold the Bisket Baker's Pocket Book  
 with the 100 l. Exchequer Note in it, and other  
 Bills to the City M---l, at a Tavern in Alder-  
 gate Street, for 4 or 5 Guineas. The Person to  
 whom the Boy applied himself, ask'd him what  
 sort of a Person the Gentleman was that he took  
 it from, who readily answer'd that he was a  
 lusty Elderly Man with light Hair, which was  
 very apparent to be the same Person. There are  
 several Persons now living, who will justify this  
 whole Affair; and the 100 l. Exchequer Bill  
 was never return'd to the Owner, but, on the  
 contrary, paid to another Person, tho' it could  
 never be trac'd Back. This Account, entirely  
 Fact, contains a Charge far greater than any  
 the City M---l has pretended to fix upon the  
 Thief Taker, as he Stiles him: And the M---l  
 owning himself to be the only Person in Eng-  
 land, that could serve a Person in these Cases,  
 makes appear his extensive Qualifications, for  
 the Great and Honourable Post of T---f T---r  
 General.

To

To inform the World of the Dealings, and good Correspondence between the *M---/* and the Thieves, and Pick Pockets about Town: I think it proper to insert the following Story. Sometime since when a Person stood in the Pillory near *Charing Cross*, a Gentleman in the Croud was Depriv'd of a Pocket Book, which had in it Bills, and Lottery Tickets, to the value of several hundred Pounds: And a very handsome Reward being at first offer'd for it in a publick Advertisement (*viz.*) Thirty Pounds at least. The *M---/* having a Suspicion that a Famous Pick Pocket, known by his lame Hand, had taken this Book, he applied himself to Him; and to enforce a Confession and Delivery, told him with a great deal of Assurance, that he must be the Person, such a Man with a lame Hand being Describ'd by the Gentleman to be near him, and whom he was certain had Stoll'n his Book. He told the Pick Pocket in short, that he must have the Book in his Possession, and that he resolv'd to have it, but that he would however share the Reward with him: And on his refusing to comply with these advantageous Terms, the *M---/* told him he was never to expect to come within the City Gates, if he did, that *Bridewel* should be his Residence at least, if he was not committed to *Newgate*. After several Meetings the *M---/*'s old Friend could not deny, but that he had the Pocket Book; but he told the *M---/* that he did not expect this rigorous Treatment from

from him, after his great Services, particularly in concealing him at several Times, and by that means Indemnifying him from the Goal. That this was not the way to Expect any future Service, when all his good Offices were forgotten. The *M---* notwithstanding these Reasons given, still insisted upon what he had first propos'd: And at length, the Pick Pocket considering, that he could not Repair to the Exchange or elsewhere, to follow his pilfering Employment, without the *M---*'s consent and fearing to be a Mark of his Revenge; he condescended to part with the Pocket Book upon Terms reasonable, between Buyer and Seller. Whereupon says the *M---*, I lost all my Money last Night at Gaming, except a Gold Watch in my Pocket, which I believe there will be no enquiry after; it coming to Hand by an Intrigue with a famous Woman of the Town, whom the Gentleman will be aham'd to Prosecute, for fear of exposing himself. I'll Exchange Goods for Goods with you; so that the Pick Pocket rather than he would risk the Consequences of Disobliging his Master, concluded a Bargain.

I now present you with a Story which shews the *M---*'s prodigious Courage, and forwardness to Hang Burglars, even his own Pupils, merely for the Reward. One Night, not far from St. Paul's, the *M---* and the Buckle-maker his Man, met with a Detachment of Pick Pocket Boys; who instantly at the sight of their Master,



Master, took to their Heels and ran away. The *Buckle-maker* ask'd the meaning of their surprize, to which the *M---l* answer'd, I know their meaning, a Pack of Rogues; they were to have came to me to the Fields this Morning with a Book, I am inform'd they have taken from a Gentleman, and they are afraid of being secur'd for their Disobedience. There is amongst them *Jack Jones* said he; I'll know the meaning of this. We'll catch them. Upon which *Jack Jones* runing behind a Coach to make his Escape was taken by the *M---l* and his Man. The Master carried him to a Tavern, and threatned him severely, telling him he believ'd they were turn'd House-Breakers; and that they were concern'd in a Burglary lately committed by Four young Criminals. This happening to be Fact, and the Boy fearing the *M---l* had been inform'd of it, He for his own Security confess'd; the *M---l* promising to save his Life on his becoming Evidence. Whereupon, the *M---l* committed the Boy to the *Compter* till the next Morning, when he carried him before a Justice of Peace, who took his Information, and issu'd a Warrant for the Apprehending of his Companions. Notice being given where the Criminals were to be found, (*viz.*) at a House in *Beach-Lane*, the *M---l* and his Man went privately in the Night thither, and listning at the Door, they over heard the Boys with several others in a mixt Company: They entred the House, where they

E

met

met with 10 or 11 Persons, who were immediately in a great Rage; enquiring what Business the *M---l* had there, and saluting him with a few Damn ye's; which occasion'd the *M---l* to make a prudent Retreat, pulling the Door after him, and leaving his little Man to the Mercy of the Savage Company. In a short space the *M---l* return'd with a Guard of Eight or Ten Watch-Men, and a Constable, and at the Door the *M---l* out of his dastardly Disposition, tho' his pretence was a Ceremonious Respect; oblig'd the Constable to go in first; (but the Constable and the *M---l* were both so long in their Compliments, that the Man thought neither of them would venture in) at last the Constable entring with his long Staff extended before him, the *M---l* Manfully follow'd; crying out, where are the Rebels, Villains! why don't ye secure them? The *M---l*'s Man answer'd, that they were under the Table, upon which the Constable pull'd out the juvenal Offenders, they being neither of them above 12 Years of Age. The two Boys now taken, were committed to *Newgate*, but the Fact being committed in the County of *Surrey*, they were afterwards remov'd to the *Marshalsea* Prison: The Assizes coming on at *Kingston*, and *Jones* giving his Evidence against his Companions: The Tryals proceeded, the *M---l* Endorsing his Name on the Back of the Bill, to have the Honour of being an Evidence against these Monstrous House Breakers. On the

the Tryal the Nature of the Robbery was declar'd; but the Parents of the Offenders appearing and satisfying the Court, that the *M---l* was the Occasion of the Ruin of these Boys; by taking them into the Fields and Encouraging them in the Stealing of Pocket Books: And telling him on his Affirming they were Thieves, that he had made them such. The Judge observing the *M---l*'s views, were more to get the Reward of 40 *l.* than to do Justice: Summ'd up the Charge to the Jury in favour of the Boys, who were thereupon Acquitted, and the *M---l* Reprimanded. The *M---l* was so Enrag'd at this, and so angry with himself, for not Accusing the Boys of other Crimes; that he immediately return'd to *London*, and left his Man to Discharge the whole Reckoning at *Kingston*.

Agreeable to the preceeding Story in some Measure, is the following.

A Gentleman that had lost his Watch with a Woman of the Town, applied himself to a Person belonging to the *Compter*; who recommended him to the *Buckle-maker* for procuring of the same: And the Gentleman applying himself accordingly to him, and giving a Description of the Woman, the *Buckle-maker* a few Days after Traversing *Fleet-Street* with his Master in an Evening, happen'd to meet with the Female, (he apprehended by the Description of the Gentleman) who had Stoll'n the Watch;



and coming nearer that he was satisfied therein, he told his Master that she was the very Person Describ'd: To which the Master answer'd with an Air of Pleasure, I am glad to find we have a Prospect of something this Night to Defray our Expences; and immediately with his Man, seiz'd the Female and carried her to a Publick House, where, upon Examination, she Confess'd it was in her Power to serve the *M----* in it, telling him that if he would please to go with her Home, or to send his Man, the Watch should be Return'd, and a suitable Reward for the Trouble. The Man ask'd his Master his Opinion, whether he thought he might venture to pursue the Woman with safety: To which he replied yes, for that he knew her, and giving hints of his following at a reasonable Distance for his Security. (which he did with a great deal of Precaution as will appear) For the Man proceeding with the Female, she inform'd him that her Husband, who had the Watch about him, was at a Tavern near *White-Fryers*, and if he would condescend to go thither he might be furnish'd with it, without giving himself the least further Trouble, together with the Reward he deserv'd; to which the Man Consented, and coming to the Tavern, she made Enquiry for the Company she had been with a short space before, and being inform'd that they were still in the House; she sent in word by a Drawer, that the Gentlewoman who had been with them  
that

that Evening, desir'd the Favour to speak with them. The Drawer going in and delivering the Message, immediately three or four Gentlemen came from the Room to the Woman; she gave them to understand that the *M---l's* Man had Accus'd her of stealing a Watch; telling them she suppos'd it must be some other Woman who had assum'd her Name; and desiring their Protection. Upon which the whole Company sallied out and Attack'd the *M---l's* Man in a very violent Manner, to make a Rescue of the Female, upbraiding him for Disgracing a Gentlewoman of her Reputation; the *M---l* observing the ill Success of his Man, and fearing the Discipline of a Poker, Fire-Fork, Fire-Brands, &c. (which his Man was oblig'd to go through) Reserving his Fate of this kind to Futurity, Decently made off; hugging himself that he had Escap'd the severe Treatment he equally deserv'd with him. The Man in the Struggle shew'd his Resentment chiefly against the Female, and after a long Contest wherein he Disrob'd her so effectually, that she appear'd like *Eve* without her Fig-leaf; she was in that Pickle thrust out at the back Door, and the *M---l's* Man with his mangled Face, forc'd out at the Fore-door, and immediately the Watch being call'd, he and the rest of the Men were seiz'd. In their Conveyance to the *Compter* near *Bow-Church*, the *M---l* overtook them, and ask'd his Man the Occasion of his long Absence

sence, coming up to him in great haste ; Upon which the Man answer'd, that he had been at the Tavern with the Woman, where he thought he saw him ; To which the Master answer'd, that indeed he was there, but seeing the Confusion so great, he went off to call the Watch and Constables. This Dialogue being over, the M---I used his Interest to get off his Man, but to no purpose, he being carried to the *Compter* with the rest of the Company, in order to make an Agreement there. In the Morning the Woman sent to her Companions in the *Compter*, letting them know that if they could be Releas'd, the Watch should be return'd without any consideration, which was accordingly done ; and a small present to the M---I's Man for smart Money ; and upon this the Persons were all Discharg'd paying their Fees. The Watch being now ready to be produc'd to the Owner, the M---I insisted upon the greatest part of the Reward as being the greater Person in Authority, the Man declar'd it unreasonable unless he had pertak'd of the largest share of the Bastinado ; but however says the M---I, I have now an Opportunity of playing my old Game ; I'll Oblige the Gentleman to give ten Guineas to save his Reputation, which is so nearly concern'd with a common Prostitute ; but the Gentleman knew too much of his Character to be thus Impos'd upon, and would give no more than what he had promis'd which was three Guineas : The Master at first refus'd, but finding



finding his Man advis'd him to act cautiously, who had the Right to make a new Contract, if there was any, at last agreed to accept the Reward at first offer'd, giving his Man only one Guinea for his Service and cure of his Wounds. This is a sufficient Instance of the *M---l's* Cowardise and Barbarity.

Having giving the Publick, faithful Accounts of the many flagrant Crimes the City *M---l* has been guilty of, in the way of *Thief-Taking*: I come to others of less Consequence, as his tyrannical Proceedings in his Nightly Rambles; the Force of glittering Pieces, &c. One Night the *M---l* and the *Buckle-maker* being abroad in their Walks, not far from the *Temple* they discover'd a *Clergyman* pissing against the Wall, in an Alley, to which he had retir'd as Persons frequently do on Account of Modesty and Decency, immediately a Woman of the Town, lying in wait for prey, brush'd by the *Clergyman* saying aloud, What does the Woman want? the *M---l* instantly Rush'd in upon them and Seiz'd the *Clergyman*, bidding his Man secure the Woman. The *Clergyman* Resisted, the *M---l* protesting his Innocence, (which his Language to the Woman confirm'd,) but finding it to no purpose, he at last desir'd that he might be permitted to go into an *Ironmonger's* House near; but the *M---l* refus'd and dragg'd the *Clergyman* to *Salisbury-Court* end in *Fleet-street*, where he rais'd a Mobb about him, and two or three Gentlemen happening to  
come

come by that knew the Parson, ask'd the Mobb what they were doing with him, telling them he was Chaplain to a Noble Lord : To which the rough Gentry answer'd, *Damn* him, we believe he is *Chaplain* to the *Devil*, for we caught him with a Whore. Upon this the Gentlemen desir'd the *M--l* to go into a Tavern, that they might Talk with him without Noise and Tumult, which he Consented to. When they came into the Tavern, the Clergyman ask'd the *M--l* by what Authority he thus abus'd him; to which the *M--l* replied, He was an Officer of the City, pulling out his Staff, and would have him to the *Compter*, unless he gave very good Security for his Appearance the next Morning; when he would swear he caught him with the Whore, and his Hand under her Petticoats. The Clergyman seeing him so bent upon Perjury, which would very much Expose him; sent for other Persons to Vindicate his Reputation, who putting a glittering Security into the *M--l's* Hand, (which they found was the only way to deal with such a Monster in Iniquity) the Clergyman was permitted to go off.

The *M--l* being now ready for another Adventure, going up *Ludgate-Hill*, he observ'd a Well-dress'd Woman walking before; which he told the *Buckle-maker* was a lewd Woman, for that he saw her Talking with a Man. This was no sooner spoke, but he seiz'd her; and asking who she was, she made Answer that she was a

*Bailiff's*

*Bailiff's Wife.* You are more like to be a Whore said the *M---l*, and as such you shall go to the *Compter*. Taking the Woman thro' *St. Paul's Church Yard*, she desir'd Liberty to send for some Friends, but the *M---l* would not comply with her Request: He forc'd her into the *Knag's-head Tavern* in *Cheapside*, where he immediately order'd a hot Supper, and plenty of Wine to be brought in; commanding the Female to sit at a Distance from his Worship, and telling her that he did not commonly permit such Vermin to sit in his Presence; (tho' he intended to make her pay the Reckoning) when the Supper was brought to the Table, the *M---l* fell to it Lustily, and would not so much as allow the Woman to Eat any part of the Supper with him, or to come near the Fire, tho' it was extream cold Weather. When the *M---l* had Supp'd he star'd round, and applying himself to the Female, told her, that if he had been an *Informet*, or such a Fellow, she would have call'd for Eatables and Drinkables her self, and would not have given him the Trouble of Direction, or else would have immediately slipp'd a Piece into his Hand. Continuing, you may do what you please; but tho' we that buy our Places seem to go for nothing: I can assure you it is in my Power, if I see a Woman in the Hands of *Informers*, to Discharge her, and Commit them: Telling her that she was not so Ignorant, but she must guess his meaning. The Female replied,

F



plied, that she had Money enough to pay for the Supper, and about 5 s. or 7 s. 6 d. more. This desirèable Answer being given, the *M---l* order'd his Attendant to withdraw whilst he Compounded, the Matter with her; and when the *M---l's* Man came in again, the Gentlewoman was very Civily ask'd by the *M---l* to sit by the Fire; to Eat of the remainder of the Supper, in all Respects treated very kindly by the *M---l*, having only a pretended Reprimand to give him better Language when ever he should speak to her for the future. And after another Bottle Drank at the Female's Expence, she was Discharg'd. This is an excellent Method to get a good Supper Gratis; and to Contribute to the filling of an empty Pocket.

These are some of the remarkable Adventures of the *M---l*, and his Man the *Buckle-maker* after the *M---l's* Suspension, and many others might be Enumerated; but fearing I should tire the Patience of the Reader, I have Disist'd from any further Attempt: Tho' it may not be amiss to inform the Publick, that a certain Person before his Disgrace, us'd to have daily Meetings with his Pick Pocket Boys in *Morefields*, and to treat them there plentifully with Cakes and Ale; offering them sufficient Encouragements to continue their Thefts: And at a certain time it happen'd that one of the Boys more cunning than his Companions; having Stollen an Alderman's Pocket Book, and upon opening it, finding several

veral Bank-Bills, he gave the *M---l* to understand, that it was worth a great deal beyond the usual Price ; the Notes being of considerable Value, he insisted upon 5 Pieces ; the *M---l* told the Boy that 5 Pieces was enough to break him at once ; that if he had two Guineas, he would be sufficiently paid ; which he would give him, but assur'd him, if he had the good Fortune to obtain a handsome Reward, he'd make it up Five Pieces. Upon this present Encouragement and future Expectation, the Boy deliver'd up the Pocket Book. And a few Days afterwards, the Boy being inform'd, that a very large Reward had been given for the Notes, applied himself to the *M---l*, for the remaining three Guineas according to Promise ; but all the Satisfaction he had was, that he should be sent to the House of Correction, if he continu'd to Demand it ; and the *M---l* telling him that such Rascals as he were ignorant how to Dispose of their Moneys.

To Justify his Dealing from the beginning with the *Pick Pocket* Boys, I need only mention the cause of his suspension ; which was for Conniving at the Intrigues of the *Pick Pockets* ; taking their Stolen Pocket Books, and sending threatening Letters to the Persons that lost them, under a pretence that they had been in Company with lewd Women : And for Extorting Money from several Persons, particularly from

a Quaker ; and this Naturally leads me to insert the two following Letters.

To *Aminidab Prim,*

*Aminidab,*

THO' Thee hast been with me, and made a tedious Preachment, pretending to be owner of a Pocket-Book in my Custody ; 'tis not thy Cant or Claim to Inspiration, shall deter me from pursuing my Interest. Thou hast hitherto grossly Impos'd upon me, and shewed that thou art a thorough-pac'd Deceiver ; but Thee must not think, by thy plain Ways of Hypocrisy, thy untrimm'd Coat, Buttonless Hat, and extensive Band, to cast a Mist before mine Eyes ; for Zounds Thee must tell the Truth, I am fully satisfied the Flesh has been powerful, that Thou has folded *Tabitha* in thine Arms, taken up the Veil of Iniquity, and jump'd into the Mouse-Trap of Sin. Thy Back deserves a Rod for thy Carnal Intrigues, And if Thee dost not speak to the Purpose, the Jest will be carried so far that I shall be oblig'd, to bring thee before a Magistrate, which will greatly expose Thee before the Righteous Congregation. O *Aminadab* remember thy Guilt, and fill up the Breach thou hast made in the Females Reputation.

I am,

Thy Friend

C. H.  
To



To Mr. A— Merchant,

SIR,

I am Inform'd that you have lately had the Misfortune to be Depriv'd of your Pocket-Book. It is not long since I labour'd under the same Calamity, and perhaps to a greater Degree than you, I having Notes for very considerable Sums enclos'd in the same; but upon applying my self to Mr. C—s H—n, in St. Paul's Church-Yard, whom I was inform'd was the greatest Proficient in the Business of Thieft-Taking in England, he took care to serve me effectually. There is no doubt but he will serve you likewise to the Extent of his Abilities, and I can assure you he has a universal Acquaintance with, and Influence over all Persons in the Town Employ'd in Thefts of this Nature. But I must give you this Caution, that you are to go to him with your Pockets well lin'd; or He'll have nothing to say to you. I am, tho' unknown,

Your Friend &c.

A. B.

This last was a circular Letter sent by himself to all Persons he thought were for his purpose. The Quaker made complaint to an Eminent Apothecary in the Poultry, that knew the Villany of the M—, he applied to the Court of Aldermen, where

where upon Examination, the City M---l was found Guilty of that and many other notorious Crimes, upon which he was suspended. And I intend very soon to publish in a seperate Tract the particular Reasons and Circumstances at large relating to the M---l's Suspension, that the World may have his vile Transactions by the best Authority; the Affidavits setting forth his particular Crimes, being too numerous to have place in this Treatise.

For other parts of the M---l's Character, I shall insert the following Entertaining Adventure. One Night the M---l invited his Man the *Huckle-maker* to a House near the end of the *Old Bayly*; telling him he would introduce him to a Company of *He-Women*. The Man not apprehending rightly his meaning, ask'd if they were *Hermaphrodites*. No ye Fool, said the M---l they are *Sodomites*, such as deal with their own Sex instead of Females. This being a Curiosity the M---l's Man had not hitherto met with, he willingly accompanied his Master to the House; which they had no sooner Enter'd, but the M---l was Complimented by the Company with the Titles of Madam, and Ladyship; the Man asking the Occasion of those uncommon Devoirs, the M---l said that it was a familiar Language peculiar to that House. The M---l's Man was not long in the House before he was more surpriz'd than at first. The Men calling one another my Dear, hugging and kissing, tickling

ling and feeling each other, as if they were a mixture of wanton Males and Females; and assuming effeminate Voices, Female Airs, &c. some telling others that they ought to be Whipp'd for not coming to School more frequently. The M---l was very merry in this Assembly, and Dallied with the young Sparks with a great deal of Pleasure, until some Persons came into the House that he little expected to meet with in that place; and then finding it out of his Power to secure the Lads to himself, he started up of a sudden in a prodigious Rage, asking the Frolicking Youth, if they were become so common as to use those Obnoxious Houses, and told them that he would spoil their Diverſion; upon which he made his Exit, with his Man. Going out of the House, he ſaid he ſuppos'd they would have the Impudence to make a Bell an Explanation whereof being deſir'd by the Man, the M---l inform'd him, that there was a noted Houſe in *Holborn*, to which thoſe ſorts of Perſons us'd to Repair, and Dress themselves in Women's Apparel for the Entertainment of others of the ſame Inclinations, in Dancing, &c. in imitation of the Fair Sex; telling him that if he were to come into the Room where they were preſent upon ſuch an Occaſion, that he would take them for ſo many Cats Caterwawling. When the M---l had told his Man this Story, ſays he, I'll be reveng'd of theſe Smock fac'd young Dogs; we'll ſecure them



them and send them to the *Compter*: In  
 order to which (the *M--l* being Acquainted  
 with their customary Walks) plac'd himself with  
 a Constable in *Fleet Street*, and dispatch'd his  
 Man to the *Old Bayly* with some likewise to his  
 Assistance, to Apprehend them in their return  
 Home. About the usual Hour of their separa-  
 tion, several of the sporting Sodomites were  
 seiz'd, by the *M--l* and his Man, and their  
 Assistants; in Women's Apparel, and Convey'd  
 in the same Dresses to the *Compter*. The next  
 Morning they were carried before the Lord  
 Mayor in the Dresses they were taken in by his  
 Lordship's Order; some having Gowns, Petticoats,  
 Head cloths, fine lac'd Shoes, Furbelow  
 Scarves, Masks, and compleat Dresses for Wo-  
 men; others had Riding Hoods; some were  
 Dress'd like Shepherdesses; others like Milk-  
 Maids, with fine Green Hatts, Waistcoats and  
 Petticoats, and others had their Faces painted,  
 and patch'd, and very extensive Hoop petticoats,  
 which were then very lately Introduc'd. Ap-  
 pearing in these Dresses of Redicule before my  
 Lord Mayor, (after Examination) his Lordship  
 Committed them to the Work-house there to  
 continue at hard Labour during pleasure, and  
 as a part of their Punishment, Order'd them to  
 be publicly convey'd thro' the Street in their  
 various Female Habits. The young Tribe of  
 Sodomites were pursuant to my Lord Mayor's  
 Order carried in Pomp to the Work-house, and  
 there

there remain'd a considerable Time, till at last one of the Youths threaten'd the M---l with the same Punishment for former Adventures, who thereupon applyed himself to my Lord Mayor in their Behalfe, and procur'd their Discharge. This Punishment was so mortifying to one of the young Gentlemen, that he died within a few Days after his Release. Any Gentleman that wants to be Acquainted with the Sodomitish Academy, may be inform'd where it is, and be graciously Introduc'd by the accomplish'd Mr. H---.

From the several Accounts before-mention'd which are incontestably true, in every particular, the Principles and Character of the M---l sufficiently appear. I shall conclude my Treatise with a Petition to his Excellency, apprehending he may nevertheless by Art and Insinuation, obtain the Preferment he desires; tho' in my Opinion, the only place he is capable of Executing thoroughly, is the infamous Post of *Jack Ketch*, Esq;

The Humble PETITION of J---N W---LD to C---s H---N City M---l; upon his Publishing a Paper, Entitled the *Theif Taker's Proclamation*.

Humbly Sheweth,

**T**HAT WHEREAS you have by an Insolent Libel lately Publish'd, Dedicated to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of this oppulent City, strenuously Asserted your undoubted Right to, and Qualification for, the laudable Post of T---F-T---R GENE-  
G RAL

K. A. L. of Great Britain and other his Majesty's  
 Dominions abroad; and made so powerful an In-  
 terest, as to stand fair for the said Employment.  
 (If such a Post will be allow'd) And you having  
 also, as AMBASSADOUR of BELZEBUB;  
 lately Publish'd (under another's Name) your Royal  
 PROCLAMATION, setting forth the Great  
 Encouragement you will give to the profession of  
 Thief-Taking, and the plundering of the Publick;  
 I think it my Interest by an early Application to  
 Petition your Excellency (amongst great Numbers  
 of others equally qualified) for some Post or Em-  
 ployment under you, and I'll assure you I'll serve  
 your Excellency with the same infidelity and per-  
 fidiousness, as you have hitherto done the Magi-  
 stracy of the City of London, in your Office of  
 M<sup>r</sup>-I; particularly I'll take care that no Woman  
 of the Town shall Walk the Streets, or Bawdy-  
 House be kept without your Excellency's Licence;  
 and Tryal of the Ware; that no Sodomitish As-  
 semblies shall be held, without your Excellency's  
 Presence, and making Choice for your own Use;  
 in order to which, I'll engage to provide a Female  
 Dress for your Excellency, much finer than what  
 your Excellency has been hitherto Accustom'd to  
 Wear. That those Pick-pockets which shall De-  
 sist from their Business, and not commit Robberies  
 upon the Persons of every Body they meet, shall,  
 as you have desired be sent to Newgate for Con-  
 tempt, and not continuing the same Crimes as  
 formerly; according to your Example in the Case  
 of the Bisket-Baker; to return no 100 l. Exche-  
 quer



quer Bills to the right Owners, but to share the Money with your Excellency; to Hang all Thieves presuming to Act, without delivering their Effects to your Excellency; to send Honest Clergymen to the Compter for Pissing against Walls; to plunder Women of the Town and every Body else for Money, when my Purse is exhausted with Gaming; to take Watches from Persons buying them without your Excellency's Leave; to give daily Attendance on the Pick-Pocket Pupils in Moor-fields for their Encouragement; to Exert my Courage equal to your Excellency on the Apprehension of the two Burglar Boys; and in short to Imitate your Excellency in all illegal Practices you have been guilty of since your Suspension in the Service of my Lord Mayor; the Particulars whereof are at large Inserted in the Treatise to which this is Annex'd; to set forth my Merit to your Favour, and your great Desert and Experience in the Tracks of Tyburn.

All which being consider'd, and a just Regard being had to my Faithful Services when I had the Honour of being your Assistant, and acquir'd that little knowledge I have in Iniquity, I humbly hope you'll be graciously pleas'd to bestow upon me some Office or Employment, if it be only to take up and Expose the worthy Reformers of this City, according to your pious Inclinations and glorious Example.

And your Petitioner will ever Pray, &c.

Jonathan Wild.

POST-

## POSTSCRIPT.

THE City M---I pretending in his Scandalous Treatise, that he is the only Person of Resolution, fit to Apprehend Malefactors and to work a Reformation; I think it my Duty to Advertise the Publick, that if the Magistracy of this City think fit to Direct any Persons of Reputation to apply themselves to me, they will be let into such important Discoveries, tending to the Distribution of Justice, as may not be Expected, without any Mercenary Views or Expectations, but merely for the Good of Mankind. They will find a willingness to concert proper Measures, and Courage to Execute beyond what is to be met with in that cowardly Lump of Scandal the M---I, who pretends to do good Offices, only for the sake of the Reward. And I shall be glad to be tried whether I am not ready to Enter upon such hazardous Attempts as the Dastardly C---s H---n dares not Engage in.

F I N I S.